

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY BERLIN

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USMISSION USBERLIN

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 059944

E.O. 11652/GDS

TAGS: PFOR, ETRD, CGEN, GE, US

SUBJECT: US-GDR RELATIONS

REF STATE: 028732

1. SUMMARY: EUR/CE DEPUTY DIRECTOR AND GDR DCM DISCUSSED
STATUS OF GDR REQUEST FOR PERMISSION TO ESTABLISH TRADE
OFFICE AND FTO OFFICES IN NEW YORK, RECENTLY CONCLUDED
THIRD ROUND OF CONSULAR NEGOTIATIONS AND SITUATION
REGARDING RESOLUTION OF HUMANITARIAN CASES ON US
REPRESENTATION LIST. ELM WAS ALSO GIVEN FORMAL NOTE
AUTHORIZING GDR EMBASSY TO OPERATE RADIO. HE WAS TOLD
THAT DEPARTMENT EXPECTED RECIPROCITY AND THAT, WHILE NOT
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LINKING RADIO WITH EMBASSY BERLIN'S REQUEST FOR TELETYPE

FACILITY, EXPECT THAT THERE WILL BE NO FURTHER DELAY IN GRANTING OUR REQUEST. END SUMMARY.

2. GDR DCM ELM CALLED ON EUR/CE DEPUTY DIRECTOR HEICHLER MARCH 10 AT FORMER'S REQUEST TO ASK WHAT STEPS THE DEPARTMENT WOULD NOW TAKE TO ENABLE THE GDR TO ESTABLISH A TRADE OFFICE AND FTO OFFICES IN NEW YORK. HEICHLER REFERRED TO ASSISTNAT SECRETARY HARTMAN'S FEBRUARY 3 MEETING WITH AMBASSADOR SIEBER(REFTEL) AT WHICH TIME

SIEBER WAS TOLD THAT THE US AGREED IN PRINCIPLE TO THE OPENING OF THESE OFFICES BUT THAT THE ACTUAL IMPLEMEN-

TATION COULD TAKE PLACE ONLY AFTER AGREEMENT ON A

CONSULAR CONVENTION AND SIGNIFICANT PROGRESS IN RESOLVING OUTSTANDING HUMANITARIAN CASES.

3. ELM EXPRESSED SURPRISE AT THIS STATEMENT, ARGUING THAT THE GDR BELIEVED SUFFICIENT PROGRESS HAD BEEN MADE IN BOTH THESE AREAS TO PERMIT THE GDR TO GO AHEAD WITH ITS PLANS FOR THE NEW YORK OFFICES. HE WENT ON TO SAY THAT THE GDR CONSIDERS THAT RELATIONS SHOULD BE DEVELOPED IN WHATEVER AREAS POSSIBLE AND THAT THE PROBLEMS CONFRONTING US IN OTHER AREAS COULD BE HANDLED SEPARATELY. HEICHLER AND GDR DESK OFFICER RESPONDED

THAT THE US VIEWS BOTH HUMANITARIAN CASES AND A CONSULAR AGREEMENT AS SERIOUS MATTERS AND THAT THE US, AS STATED REPEATEDLY, WANTS TO MOVE STEP BY STEP IN DEVELOPING OUR RELATIONS AND HENCE WISHES TO RESOLVE THESE PROBLEMS BEFORE TURNING TO OTHER MATTERS. ELM WAS EVIDENTLY DISAPPOINTED BY THE OUTCOME OF THIS DISCUSSION, BUT SUGGESTED ANOTHER MEETING IN THE NEAR FUTURE TO DISCUSS THE STATUS OF THE HUMANITARIAN CASES. DEPARTMENT PROMISED TO PROVIDE GDR EMBASSY WITH INFORMATION ON HOW TO APPLY FORMALLY FOR PERMISSION TO ESTABLISH NEW YORK

FACILITIES. HEICHLER REITERATED, HOWEVER THAT NO ACTION

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WOULD BE TAKEN ON SUCH REQUEST UNTIL THE US WAS SATISFIED WITH PROGRESS ON THE CONSULAR AND HUMANITARIAN ISSUES. HE EXPRESSED OUR DISAPPOINTMENT WITH SLOW MOVEMENT ON FIRST LIST OF HUMANITARIAN CASES AND NOTED CONGRESSIONAL INTEREST IN A NUMBER OF THESE.

4. AT OUTSET OF MEETING, HEICHLER GAVE ELM FORMAL NOTE AUTHORIZING GDR

EMBASSY TO OPERATE RADIO-TELETYPE. HEICHLER STRESSED THAT DEPARTMENT EXPECTED RECIPROCAL APPROVAL FOR EMBASSY BERLIN RADIO. TURNING TO THE US REQUEST FOR A TELETYPE FACILITY, HEICHLER NOTED THAT THE US HAD NEVER LINKED THE GDR EMBASSY RADIO WITH THIS REQUEST. NEVERTHELESS, THE DEPARTMENT EXPECTS THAT THE GDR WILL NOW APPROVE OUR REQUEST FORTHWITH.

5. COMMENT: ELM CLEARLY TIMED HIS APPROACH TO COINCIDE WITH END OF THIRD ROUND OF CONSULAR NEGOTIATION. HE ARGUED THAT SINCE PROGRESS HAD BEEN MADE IN THAT ROUND, WE NO LONGER HAD REASON TO DELAY ACTION ON GDR TRADE OFFICE AND FTO'S. HE PROFESSED SURPRISE AND DISAPPOINTMENT AT BEING REMINDED THAT BY PROGRESS ON CONSULAR CONVENTION WE UNDERSTOOD FULL AGREEMENT, RATHER THAN MERE RESOLUTION OF SEVERAL MORE TECHNICAL QUESTIONS. KISSINGER

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